THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. The Government of India is satisfied with the assurance by the French Government that visas will henceforth be issued expeditiously to holders of diplomatic and official passports.

Indian threat to pull out from US peacekeeping operations

951. SHRI VIJAYJ. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India's delegate at the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York has said that 'India might pull out of UN peacekeeping operations in future if the country continued to be kept out of the decision-making process; and

(b) if so, whether it is in accordance with our established foreign policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. India's delegate at the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York has not made such a statement.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Buddha statue by Bhutan

952. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhutan proposes to build the world's largest Buddha statue;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the time-frame within which it would be started and completed;

(c) what is the status of such rock Buddha statue which was destroyed by the vandalism of Talibans at Bamyan in Afghanistan and whether Afghanistan Government proposes to re-construct this statue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?